

2017-2018 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Public Health, Municipal Court, and Parks and Recreation

REQUEST NO.: 101

REQUESTED BY: Pool

DATE REQUESTED: 8/17/17

DATE POSTED: 8/28/17

REQUEST: Please provide an update to the response from Budget Question No. 35 from FY 2017 on graffiti abatement requests and removals through FY 2017 year-to-date.

RESPONSE:

Austin Public Health:

The FY 2018 Proposed Budget for the HHSD Graffiti Abatement Program is \$526,532. Below is data representing the amount of graffiti abatement and backlog for 2011 to year-to-date. Also included is the performance data related to average days to clean up graffiti.

Fiscal Year	Count	Overdue Count	Closed Late	Percent Closed Late	Working Response Days	Response Days	SQ Footage Cleaned
FY 2011	15,339	0	9,859	64.27%	6	9	1,026,707
FY 2012	7,758	0	2,991	38.55%	7	11	922,156
FY 2013	6,962	0	3,313	47.59%	11	16	836,984
FY 2014	6,013	0	2,266	37.69%	6	8	930,799
FY 2015	5,223	2	2,270	43.46%	11	16	771,856
FY 2016	4,435	3	3,265	73.62%	36	53	607,384
FY 2017	3,675	953	2,472	67.27%	64	71	151,784
Overall - Total	49,405	958	26,436	53.21%	20	26	5,247,670

Key:

Count = Number of abatement requested received

Closed Late/Overdue Count =Based on 15-day bench mark

Response Days = Total number of days the service request was open.

Working Response Days = How many days the service request is open, not counting holidays or weekends.

Average Number of Days to Clean Up per APH Performance Measures	
Year	
2011	1.82
2012	4.7
2013	5.6
2014	28.25
2015	13.0
2016	23.54

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Municipal Court:

The Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) engages in a restorative justice model in which offenders repay the community by performing community service restitution that is supervised by six Parks Grounds Crew Leaders who are employed by the court. One of the six crew leaders oversees all of the graffiti removal requests sent to us by 311, Austin Public Health, and citizen requests forwarded to us via Citizen Assistance Forms (CAF). Crew leaders supervise defendants scheduled by DACC case managers as well as probationers from the Travis County Probation Department and focus on projects within the court's jurisdiction and throughout the City of Austin. DACC work crews only have the ability to paint over graffiti and do not have the equipment or capacity to remove graffiti utilizing chemicals or special equipment. DACC is currently participating in discussions regarding how the city is planning to address the issue of graffiti and will play a role in whatever solutions are implemented. Please note the majority of budgeted funds are associated with the personnel costs of one full-time DACC crew leader.

Fiscal Year	Total Sites Requested	Total sq. ft. removed	Backlog*	Budget Amount	Budgeted Amount Used	% of Budget used
2011	3,124	302,473	N	\$75,680	\$57,245	76%
2012	2,482	292,841	N	\$78,247	\$57,566	74%
2013	1,657	297,207	N	\$83,631	\$68,233	82%
2014	2,399	377,132	N	\$87,523	\$80,079	91%
2015	1,171	268,631	N	\$80,746	\$69,321	86%
2016	588	216,895	N	\$84,073	\$72,684	86%
2017 YTD	196	33,325	N	\$79,025	\$68,853	87%

*N = No backlog

Parks and Recreation:

In February 2015 and as graffiti removal became a major part of the daily services in park facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) began tracking the number of graffiti removal work orders that were completed by PARC Operations and Maintenance staff. The figures below for FY 2015, FY 2016 and FY 2017 include the number of requests for graffiti removal and associated costs for work orders that were completed by both PARC and Building Services. The graffiti removal costs for the years 2011 to February 2015 include only the work that was completed by Building Services.

The figures for FY 2017 are year to date and will certainly increase.

Graffiti Abatement Requests and Removal Costs		
Fiscal Year	Requests	Cost
2011	218	\$ 3,032.62
2012	189	\$ 2,306.07
2013	161	\$ 2,273.53
2014	155	\$ 1,777.02
2015*	196	\$ 31,537.98
2016*	404	\$ 160,954.67
2017*^	173	\$ 40,000
Total	1,496	\$247,334.37

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* Includes work orders completed by PARD Operations and Maintenance Staff and Building Services

^ Staff estimate that graffiti abatement costs in FY 2017 will exceed \$40,000. As of August 3, 2017, costs totaled \$24,184.63.

The costs for graffiti removal for FY 2015, FY 2016 and FY 2017 are significantly higher compared to previous years because PARD Operations and Maintenance Division equipment and labor costs are included. In FY 2016, PARD also invested in graffiti abatement materials and equipment to support ongoing abatement activities. These included graffiti removal spray, pressure washers and paint. Currently, graffiti abatement is a scheduled daily task for all grounds service and maintenance units throughout Austin.

The rising costs of graffiti removal are due to the significant increase in graffiti incidents in parks citywide.